

Bishop J. S. Caldwell, D.D.

A. M. E. Zion Church

Residence: Philadelphia, Pa.

BISHOP CALDWELL presides over the Alleghany and Ohio, California, Kentucky, West Alabama, and Hawaii conferences. He was born in Mecklenberg County, N. C., in August, 1861.

His early years were spent largely at work, and his "schooling" until he was fifteen was less than two months a year, but by severe application and "much burning of midnight oil," he secured a good education and graduated from Zion Wesley Institute, now Livingstone College, Salisbury, N. C., in 1888, subsequently taking a post-graduate theological course in Union Theological Seminary, New York.

Among his pastorates were those at the "Mother Zion Church," New York, and Wesley Church, Philadelphia. He was made financial secretary of the denomination for several years and was elected bishop in 1904.

An Episcopal associate, writing of Bishop Caldwell, says: "Physically, mentally, and morally Bishop Caldwell is one of the highest types of Negro manhood. A man of singular and exceptional executive ability, as well as a financier of his church, he has been pre-eminently successful. His reverent and fearless attitude in defense of right principles has been his dominant characteristic. He is an example of what pluck and perseverance can accomplish. With a singleness of purpose, keenly alive to the needs of his race, he has risen from obscurity, and by his own labor has attained the highest position in his church."

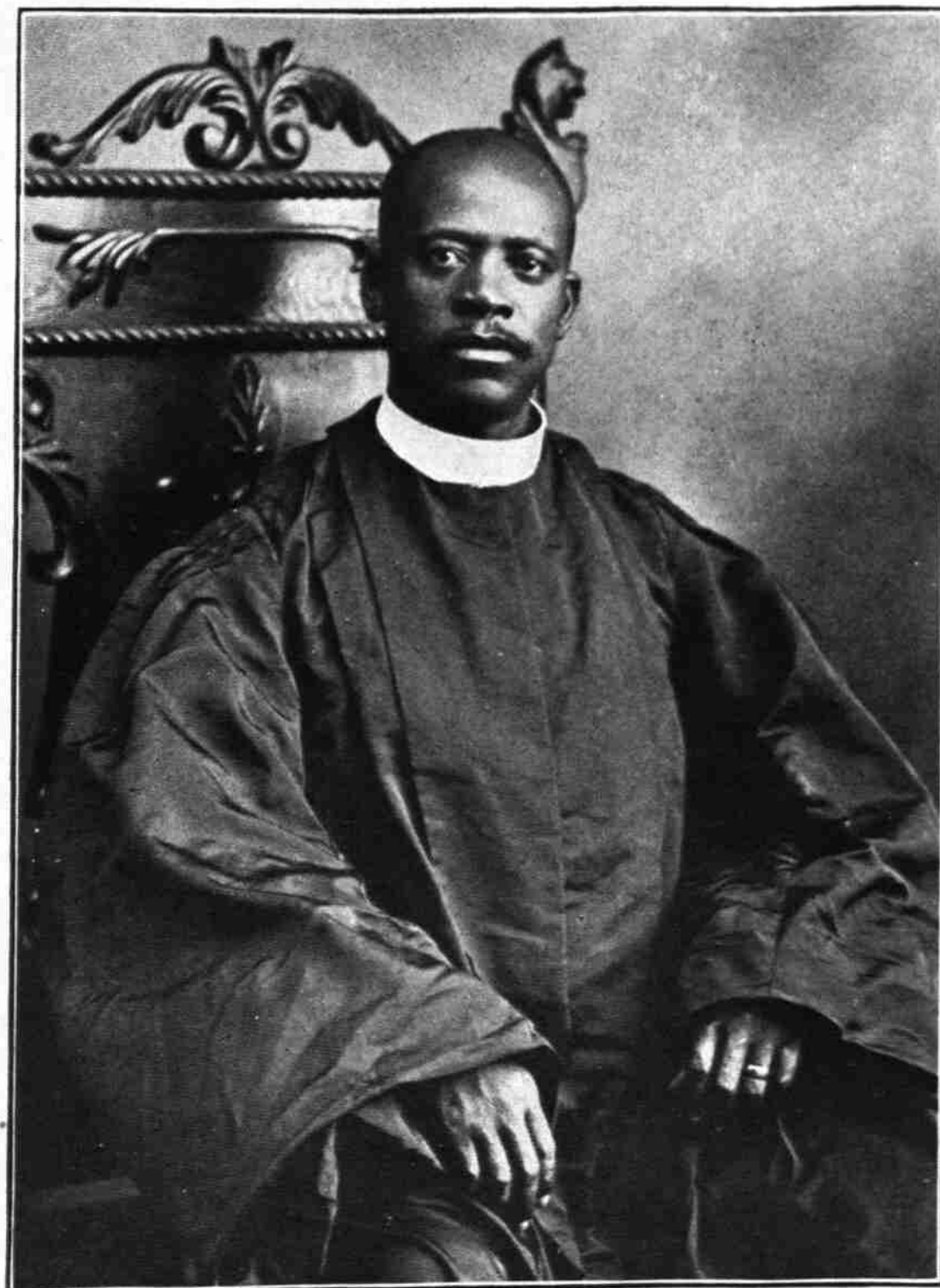
He is considered a safe and sane leader for his people both in ecclesiastical and civic affairs.

Greatest Needs of the Negro Race

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THE Negro race has made remarkable progress since its emancipation, yet there is much to be done before the status of the race can be regarded as being anything like satisfactory, even to itself.

The means employed for its development have been, for the most part, the church and schools for higher education. These agencies are looked to more and more as the years go by, but in addition it is necessary to develop the physical man as well as the moral and intellectual. Hence, in recent years, an industrial phase of education has been coupled with most of our educational institutions.



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In the rural districts of the South the Negro race has not had the best possible educational advantages that it should have had. This condition is not improving as rapidly as it should. Some of the legislatures of the South are considering, and some have passed, a law which provides that the taxes accruing from property assessments of each be devoted to the education of said race. This has had a discouraging effect upon the Negroes, because it means a reduction in the school term for their children.

Since it is true that no people who are ignorant can keep pace with our advancing civilization, I am of the opinion that one of the needs, perhaps the most important one, is education for the masses.

The greatest progress that has been made by the race is along religious lines. It owns more real estate in church property than in any other. We have had from the very beginning of our career a fairly intelligent and an earnest ministry. At present our teaching from the pulpits by the men of our

own race will compare favorably in intelligence with the pulpits of the men of other races. A keen appreciation of the Bible, its great truths and its wonderful lessons, is an imperative need of our people, and any movement such as is suggested that looks to the religious training of our young people through a study of God's Word, and through Sunday-school methods, is worthy our best support because it responds to a great need.

A quickening of the business life of the Negro is a necessity. The race has not been entirely insensible or indifferent to this demand, but it has found itself circumscribed or hampered in this field.

The Negroes of the North, for the most part, are barred from labor unions and thereby prohibited from becoming skilled in many industrial pursuits, as well as being constantly subjected to the hardship of going without an opportunity, for long intervals, to earn a livelihood. The race needs a healthier sentiment created throughout the whole country in favor of equal opportunity and fair play for its members who have a desire to make progress along industrial lines.

I assure you I am in full sympathy with the work which you are undertaking to perform and will encourage the effort in any way possible.